

Examining Practices

Examining Practices is Arizona's system of general supervision and oversight of policies, procedures, and practices of all local education agencies (LEAs) in the state. Examining Practices is based on data analysis, and its use supports our State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP).

Our focus is to build LEAs' capacity for internal supervision systems and improve outcomes for students with disabilities.

Program specialists assigned to the district or charter school will meet with the LEA director each spring to discuss the LEA data to plan for any upcoming examining practices activities.

The activities involved could include the following actions:

- Using the Examining Data to Improve Student Achievement (EDISA) process
- Collaborating with LEAs in strengthening their internal systems of supervision
- Focusing discussions with LEAs on using the data-use framework to advance outcomes for students
- Making connections through data analysis and file review
- Delivering technical assistance to increase or build sustainability
- Basing professional development on the LEA's needs for building its own capacity
- Collecting indicator data
- Using a case study to determine educational benefit (pilot for 2015–2016 school year)

By aligning the work we do in a continuous improvement process, we've created a new goal. This goal is to create a system that balances the protection of students' rights while improving educational results and functional outcomes for students with disabilities.

IDEA Grant Information

Grants will be available to those LEAs invited to participate in the EDISA (Examining Data to Improve Student Achievement) process. EDISA grants that are available are as follows:

EDISA Training Grants – These grants pay for registration at the EDISA workshops, travel costs, and substitute costs as needed. The grants are of three types:

- EDISA 1 Training Grant – for new LEAs entering the EDISA process and attending the EDISA 1 workshops during their initial training year.
- EDISA Differentiated Training Grant – for new LEAs entering the EDISA 1 process but receiving their training on-site rather than at the EDISA workshops. Typically this involves very small LEAs with few building sites.
- EDISA 2 Training Grant – for individual schools participating in the EDISA 2 workshops. These buildings are selected from the districts that successfully complete EDISA 1. Currently, this opportunity exists for a maximum of three buildings from each LEA that has successfully completed EDISA 1.

EDISA Implementation Grants – These grants exist to help fund a district's Action Plan after the successful completion of the EDISA 1 curriculum. Currently, there are also funds for each building participating in EDISA 2 to support the building-level Action Plan. Implementation grants will exist only as funds are available. The current grants are as follows:

- EDISA 1/EDISA Differentiated Implementation Grant – to help fund the district's Action Plan after the district DAT has successfully completed the EDISA 1 workshop.
- EDISA 2 Implementation Grant – to help fund a building's Action Plan after the building DAT has successfully completed the EDISA 2 workshop.

Grants are accessible at www.azed.gov – **ADE CONNECT**

LEAs needing additional information about the EDISA grants should consult with their assigned program specialist from ESS/Program Support and Monitoring.

Accountability

As participants in the EDISA process, LEAs should demonstrate adherence to the following expectations:

- Work as a team.
- Ensure that LEA leadership is present at all events.
- Attend and hold monthly Data Action Team (DAT) meetings.
- Ensure that all team members participate in all workshops and DAT meetings.
- Complete ALL activities with fidelity.
- Engage in ongoing data analysis.
- Adhere to deadlines to complete documents.
- Complete the EDISA five-year process with fidelity.
- Provide data when requested for progress monitoring.

As part of the EDISA process, teams will conduct a student file review as another data collection measure.

In accordance with the Office of Special Education Program's (OSEP's) 09/02 memo, when noncompliance is found by a state agency, the LEA is required to correct the noncompliance. The LEA team will have until May 2, 2016, to correct all identified areas of noncompliance. If the identified noncompliance is not corrected by May 2, 2016, a Written Notification of Findings will be sent to the LEA and additional corrective activities will be added to the EDISA Action Plan. When the Written Notification of Findings is sent, the LEA will have one year to correct all identified noncompliance.

Enforcement Activities

If the LEA participating does not complete all required accountability activities, the following progression of enforcement actions will be taken:

<p>The assigned program specialist will have a conversation identifying the issue(s) with the special education director. A resolution will be developed as the next step to address the current issue(s). The ADE/ESS director will send a letter acknowledging the identified issue(s) and resolutions. The superintendent/charter holder will be sent a copy of the letter.</p>
<p>A team from ADE/ESS (ESS director and the program specialist) and the LEA (special education director and superintendent/charter holder) will meet to address continuing issues and resolutions and how the LEA's performance affects the school's grade.</p>
<p>IDEA payments will be interrupted until resolution is adequately addressed. For charter schools not receiving IDEA funds, a request for withholding 10% of state funds will be initiated.</p>
<p>The LEA will be placed in High Risk status throughout the state agency.</p>
<p>The LEA will participate in a Programmatic Review.</p>